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red hills

Ref.
STATE PARK



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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
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THE PARK

Red Hills State Park is 1 mile northeast of Sumner in Lawrence County between Olney and Lawrenceville. The original 797-acre acquisition for the park has been increased to 948 acres of high wooded hills, deep ravines, interesting meadows and year round springs. Among the more common trees are the hickory, oak, sycamore, maple, gum, poplar, walnut, river birch, persimmon, crab and other wild apple.

U.S. 50 divides the park into two sections. The area's name comes from the peak known as Red Hill, which is the highest point along the B. & O. Railroad between Cincinnati and St. Louis.

THE LAKE

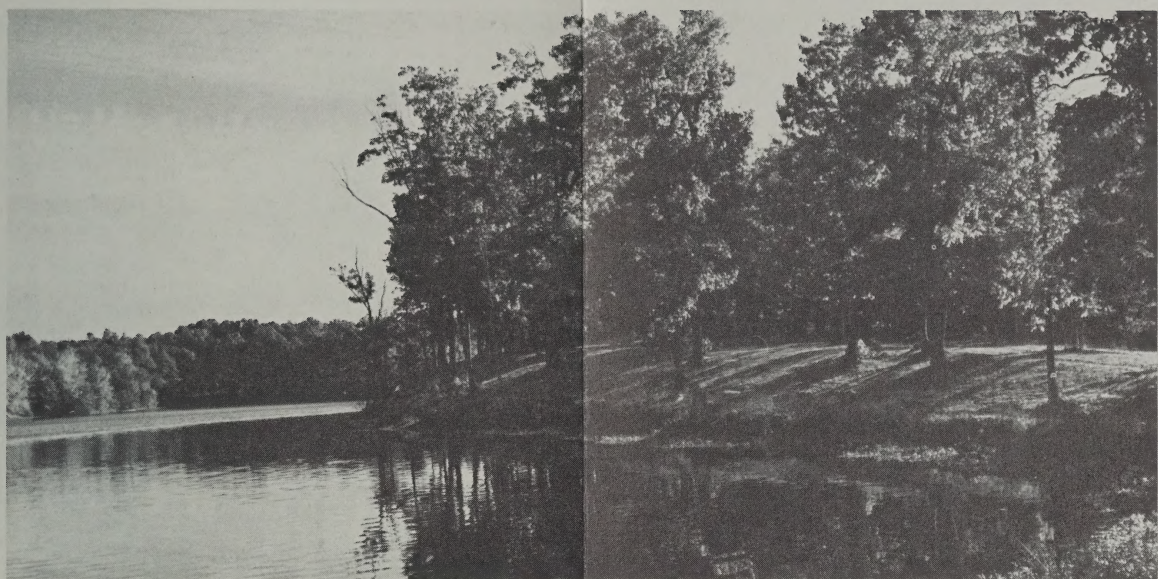
Under the Dingell-Johnson Act the state of Illinois receives reimbursement of 75 per cent of the expenditure of approved projects. Money is available from the 10 per cent federal excise tax levied on certain sport fishing tackle in the Fisheries Restoration Program. The first lake created under this act in Illinois was completed in December 1953 at Red Hills State Park.

A dam constructed in the south section of the park at the point of Muddy Creek, a tributary of the Embarras River, provides the 40-acre lake with water from a drainage area of 618 acres. The maximum depth is about 30 feet with 2.5 miles of shoreline.

HISTORY

The park is an important historical crossroad, the westernmost edge of the first land in Illinois ceded by the Indians to the United States government. The border line runs through the park from southwest to northeast and was set by a treaty made in 1795 at Greenville, Ohio by General Anthony Wayne and the Indians, whereby they relinquished all claims to the land northwest of the Ohio River and east of a specified line. The area was called Vincennes Tract. The western boundary running through the park was known as the Indian boundary line and is marked by decided jog's which correspond to the original survey line.

Intersecting the boundary was the Cahokia Trace which runs east and west to the north of U.S. 50 and is visible from the east park entrance. Commonly known as the "Trace Road," it connected Vincennes and St. Louis and for years was the principal route to the west.



UNIQUE FEATURES

The Cross: Red Hill is topped with a tower and cross, which was constructed and financed by area residents cooperating with an interdenominational council for the specific area, which was used as such before it became state property. The "little tabernacle" at the base of the cross is frequently used for various services and, on special occasions, the cross is lighted at night. Easter sunrise service is most popular.

Veteran's Point: A one-quarter acre tract of land is available to local veteran groups to honor ex-servicemen of all wars and to provide a place for their gatherings.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: The north section has large picnic areas, playgrounds and a shelter house; south of the highway, more playground and picnic areas are scattered around the lake. All the areas have tables and park stoves, and are convenient to parking lots.

Fishing and Boating: A good road winds around the lake. Bank fishing is popular for largemouth bass, channel catfish, sunfish, bluegill and bullhead. A boat launching ramp accommodates both rental and private boats for boat fishing. Gas motors are not permitted; electric trolling only. Tame white ducks are year round residents at the lake and park visitors can feed them.

Camping: In the south section a family area with a sanitary station for trailers, electricity and a modern utility building with showers and flush toilets is available. There is also a tent camping area with limited accommodations. Youth group camping area in the north section is for tent camping only. Permits must be obtained from the park ranger at the Permit Station on the south side of the lake.

Hunting: In season for squirrel, dove, woodcock, quail and rabbit. There is a check station where all hunters must check in, and all hunters, including squirrel hunters, must check out. Consult the park ranger for information concerning shooting time and opening dates.

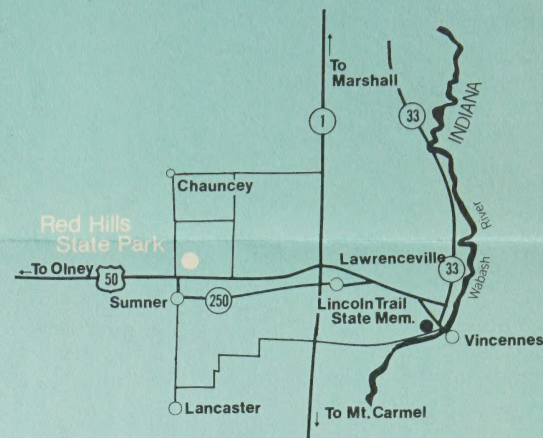
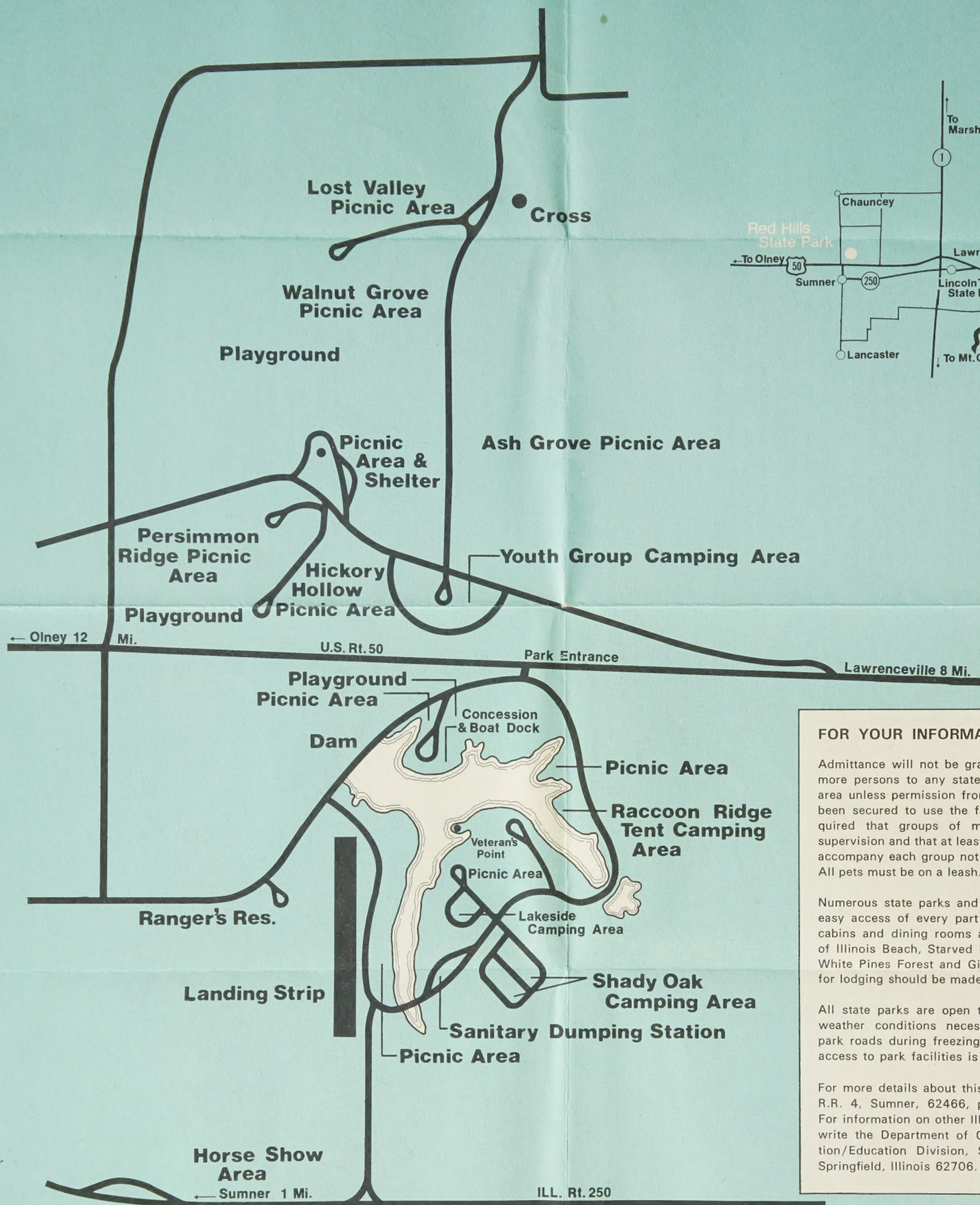
Interpretation Program: A park interpreter conducts summer recreation programs in the park. There is a trail through the woods and other areas suitable for hiking. An archery range is conveniently located.

Airstrip: A 2400-foot grass landing strip is available for small aircraft.

Food Service: An air-conditioned dining room is open most of the year for the convenience of park visitors.

Winter Sports: Ice fishing and ice-skating are allowed if the ice is thick enough.

Horseback Riding: The park has limited trails for horseback riding and a show ring for society horsemanship.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state parks and memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Ranger, R.R. 4, Sumner, 62466, phone 618/936-2469. For information on other Illinois recreation areas, write the Department of Conservation, Information/Education Division, State Office Building, Springfield, Illinois 62706.